



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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UKRAINE

USAID Recognizes Contributions of Ukrainian Mayors in the Implementation of Modern Budget Techniques

On June 21, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor, and USAID Regional Mission Director Earl Gast presented mayors of 24 Ukrainian cities with awards recognizing their significant contributions to the successful implementation of Performance Program Budgeting (PPB).



Ambassador William Taylor (right) hands an award to Taras Pustovit, Mayor of Ostroh

During the ceremony, some mayors shared their city's best practices in the implementation of PPB, which have helped improve service delivery in such sectors as health, education and communal services.

PPB is a method of budget formulation and execution that has been used by many countries since the middle of the 20th century. In Ukraine, the USAID's Municipal Budget Reform Project (MBR) has been promoting and supporting the implementation of PPB at the national and local levels since 2005. PPB is currently being applied in 85 Ukrainian municipalities.

The MBR Project also signed Letters of Coopera-

tion with the Mayor of Illichivsk and the deputy mayor of Lviv during the ceremony to begin work in budget reform with these two cities.

The ceremony was followed by a press conference and a reception in honor of the mayors, hosted by Mission Director Gast.

Ukraine Moves to Reduce Corruption in Higher Education

Deputy Minister of Education and Science Valentyn Teslenko and USAID Regional Mission Director Earl Gast announced the launch of the Ukrainian Standardized External Testing Initiative (USETI) at a press-conference on June 22. Other key speakers included director of the Ukrainian Center for Educational Quality Assessment Ihor Likarchuk and USETI Chief of Party Yarema Bachynsky.



Earl Gast answers more questions after the press conference

USETI is one of several components of the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Threshold Country Program under which the Ukrainian Government is working to reduce corruption in the public sector.

The aim of USETI is to reduce corruption in higher education admissions. The program will include a wide range of activities, from improving test

security and training specialists to developing a legislative base for student admissions.

Besides reducing corruption in higher education, USETI will provide training to Ukrainian professionals in the development of security for external examinations and develop the necessary infrastructure for a sustainable testing system. The Initiative also will work to bring the higher education in Ukraine into accordance with international standards and the Bologna process.

USAID MAMA+ Project Summarizes Accomplishments of Two Years of Work

On June 25, USAID Regional Mission Director in Ukraine Earl Gast, joined Minister for Family, Youth and Sport Victor Korzh and Deputy Minister of Health Anatoliy Musiyenko at a press conference to discuss the achievements of USAID's Mama+ project in keeping children born to HIV-infected mothers within their biological families.

The press conference and accompanying photo exhibit, "MAMA+: Helping HIV-Affected Families," opened a two-day national conference summarizing USAID's two-year MAMA+ project.



Mission Director Earl Gast views photo exhibit

Over the past two years, the MAMA+ Project provided services to hundreds of women in Kyiv, Donetsk, and Simferopol, enabling more than 200 children born to HIV-positive mothers to remain with their biological families. In addition, nine children born to HIV-positive mothers were reunited with their biological families. Forty state and non-governmental institutions participated in the project referral network, and 150 representatives of these agencies were trained in the MAMA+ model.

A 28-year old MAMA+ Project client in Donetsk said, "We were very lucky to meet the MAMA+ team at the right moment. Now my husband and I are sure that HIV is not the end of life, and that we can live for our children."

The MAMA+ project was implemented by Doctors of the World-USA, in close partnership with the AUN/PLWHA, the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Health.

Association of Ukrainian Cities Celebrates Its 15th Anniversary

On June 26, USAID Deputy Mission Director Peter Argo participated in an event dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) in which more than 200 mayors and local government representatives from all over Ukraine took part.



Deputy Mission Director Peter Argo tours the AUC photo exhibition

In welcoming participants, Mr. Argo stressed that "the AUC and the mayors who lead its cities have played a vital and active role in re-defining the character and quality of government services. They are responsible for changes that are still taking place, which are making government more accessible to Ukrainians and raising the quality of their lives."

USAID's Expanding Training and Advocacy Services (ETAS) Project with the AUC was launched in 2004. USAID and the AUC began their partnership in 1993.

To date, 16,876 local government officials from AUC member and non-member cities have received high-quality training services.

Upcoming Events

July 2 - 6, Access to Credit Initiative (ATCI), Certified Mortgage Lender Program, Train-the-Trainer, Course 2, Kyiv.

July 3 - 4, The Promoting Active Citizen Engagement (ProACE), Training on "Use of Advocacy in Anti-Corruption NGO Work," Kyiv.

July 5, The Ukraine Reform Education Program, a National Reform Press Club Meeting on "How grain problems are settled in Ukraine?" Kyiv.

July 5 - 6, Rule of Law Project, Conference for Chief Judges and Court Staff on "Interaction Between Chief Judge and Court Administrator Regarding Issues of Court Administration and Case Management," Lviv.

July 11, Capital Markets Project, Roundtable on "Self-Regulatory Organizations of the Professional Stock Market Participants: their Role, Problems and Development Strategy," Kyiv.

July 13, Reducing Stigma and Discrimination Related to HIV-infection and AIDS, Public Event for Children Living with HIV "Our Children," Simferopol.

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M O L D O V A

Ambassador Kirby Rolls up His Sleeves to Promote Voluntary Blood Donations in Moldova

On June 14, in celebration of World Blood Donor Day, U.S. Ambassador Michael D. Kirby, along with Moldova's Minister of Health Ion Ababii, donated blood to raise awareness for the critical need for voluntary, unpaid blood donations in Moldova. Voluntary, unpaid donors are the foundation of a safe blood supply, crucial to

Moldova's healthcare system and to the welfare of its citizens who need life-saving transfusions and medical services.

USAID's Preventing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B&C Project (PHHP) is working to improve blood transfusion and blood product safety in Moldova by assisting the National Blood Transfusion Center to meet international quality standards, and improving blood donor recruitment, regulatory standards, management systems, monitoring, and clinical procedures.



*Ambassador Kirby donates blood with
cameras rolling*

The World Blood Donor Day conference, sponsored by PHHP, drew more than 100 persons. After the formal presentations, people crowded the mobile donation center to donate blood.

Upcoming Events

July 9, Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Regional Technical Coordination Meeting with OSCE, Soroca.

July 10, Rule of Law Initiative, Gender Equality Training, Soroca.

July 17, Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Business Plan Presentation, Cahul.

July 17, Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Closing of the Professional Carpet Weaving Course, Comrat.

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BELARUS

Community Connections Holds 2006 Alumni Reunion

On June 16, nearly 40 alumni of the Community Connections program who visited the United States in 2006 gathered at a reception hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Belarus Karen Stewart.

Ambassador Stewart explained to the alumni that “probably the most important part of this program is the relationships you have established with your hosts and colleagues in the United States. It is through people-to-people relationships – like those spawned through this program – that Belarusians and Americans will become closer as peoples, and more effective in promoting better understanding between their nations.”



Meeting friends and colleagues at the Ambassador's reception

Belarusian professionals from across the country had a chance to renew acquaintances with friends they made while studying in the U.S. They shared their experiences and the developments in their lives and careers that have taken place since their return. Each of the five groups that traveled to the U.S. made presentations on the professional knowledge and skills they attained in the U.S. and the cultural experiences of living with host families in Ohio, New York, Wisconsin, Washington and California.

USAID's Community Connections exchange program allows competitively selected individuals to spend three to five weeks in the U.S. broadening their professional and cultural horizons.

NEE Runs Third Rural Laboratory Seminar in Kliascicy

The New Eurasia Establishment (NEE) organized a seminar for rural tourism farms in the village of Kliascicy on June 10. It was the third seminar in a series being run under the Rural Laboratory Program, focused on building the capacity of local communities to attract and support rural and “green” tourists.



Seminar participants discussing “green tourism”

The event, featuring Todd Comen, a U.S. trainer in marketable tourism, consisted of interactive sessions and tutorials, with participants receiving manuals and reference books to help develop their businesses. The seminars are designed not only to help the participants build their own capacity, but also help prepare their communities to accommodate domestic and international tourists.

NEE launched the initiative on March 2, 2007, with a workshop in Zarechany Manor on sustainable development and ecological standards in rural tourism, conducted by Menno Hostra, an EU expert in green tourism, and Aleg Sivagrakau, a local expert in sustainable development. NEE continued the seminars at individual rural tourism sites, holding the second event at the Lolua Bed and Breakfast (B&B) and the third at the Kliascicy B&B.

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